

Lourie in the Legislature. "He was so great because he was so good."

The son of Jewish immigrants, Lourie showed up Sunday after Sunday in black churches, Sanders recalled, serving as a bridge from the state's segregationist past to an as yet unknown future.

"Izzy was truly one of the great progressive leaders of South Carolina during a very difficult time, a time of integration, a time of trying to replace centuries of bad times for African-American citizens and poor white citizens," said former Gov. Dick Riley.

Lourie had great empathy for those who could not speak for themselves, in part because of his family's immigrant story.

"He saw the grand sweep of the American dream," said Charleston Mayor Joe Riley. "He saw his part in it . . . and he wanted to extend that to everybody he possibly could."

Lourie, along with a group of "Young Turk" Democrats that included Sanders, Joe Riley and Dick Riley, stormed the white, rural establishment that controlled life in South Carolina from the courthouse to the capitol.

In the House and later in the Senate, the Young Turks backed school integration and "fought like hell," Lourie once recalled, to institute such reforms as compulsory school attendance and reapportionment.

Lourie was a freshman lawmaker in 1965 when he confronted the House speaker over what he deemed an egregious practice: the refusal to introduce black visitors sitting in the House gallery.

He held an "an eyeball-to-eyeball" session with the late Speaker Sol Blatt, Lourie later recalled, during a time when white lawmakers were reluctant to cede long-denied rights to African-Americans. But Lourie prevailed.

"WE KNEW WE WERE JEWISH"

Lourie grew up in St. George above the family department store founded by his father, Louis Lourie, a Russian immigrant who arrived in America knowing no English and with little money in his pockets.

But Louis Lourie had cousins in St. Matthews and Orangeburg and came to South Carolina to work for room and board. In 1920, he met Anne Friedman, a young Polish Jew who had come with her family to Charleston to escape European persecution. They were married in 1921 and moved to St. George.

Lourie's father established the L. Lourie Department Store in St. George and ran a wholesale shoe business out of Augusta, Ga. The family grew to include six children—Isadore was the youngest—but his mother continued to manage the household and the business after her husband suffered a heart attack in 1939.

Long after he was grown, Isadore Lourie remembered the quiet of Sunday mornings in the small town, his Christian friends packed off to Sunday school and church. By Sunday afternoon, he said, his solitude had ended and he was back running with his schoolboy chums.

"We knew we were Jewish—my mother strongly felt her Jewish identity—but we got along well with our non-Jewish neighbors," Lourie recalled in 2000.

His mother kept a kosher house, and the family would travel to Charleston for High Holy Days.

After Isadore completed high school in 1948, his mother closed the St. George store and, with her two eldest sons, Solomon and Mick, opened the new Lourie's Department Store in Columbia, now a fixture in the capital city.

Sen. Jake Knotts, R-Lexington, still buys his suits from Lourie's, recalling the kindness of the late senator in helping Knotts arrange credit to buy his first suit after becoming a Columbia detective.

"He looked out for the little man," said Knotts. "I looked up to him for that."

GREAT TIME TO BE A DEMOCRAT

Lourie, who earned his undergraduate and law degrees from USC, was first elected to the House in 1964. In 1971, he was elected to the Senate, where he battled the old crony system and served, many of his colleagues say, as the body's conscience.

He once described the administration of Gov. Dick Riley as "eight glorious years." He said, "It was a wonderful time to be a progressive Democrat in South Carolina."

Lourie clashed later with former Republican Gov. Carroll Campbell. Their feud dated to Campbell's bitter 1978 congressional campaign against former Greenville Mayor Max Heller, who is Jewish.

Those deep-seated feelings surfaced in a keynote address to the Richland County Democratic convention in 1990, when Lourie urged the party faithful to fight against Campbell and his "crew of thugs" on every street corner.

Lourie apologized, saying he got carried away. The two later patched things up. Thursday, Campbell hailed Lourie as the consummate public servant.

He worked for and witnessed the election of the first black candidates to the Legislature. Today, 32 blacks serve in the Legislature.

Eventually, Lourie represented a redrawn, black-majority Senate district. He almost lost the seat in 1984. Then, after meeting with black leaders in 1992 at the height of his power, he decided to give up his seat voluntarily.

"He paid the ultimate political sacrifice. He gave up his political career," said state Sen. Darrell Jackson, D-Richland, who won Lourie's old seat.

After his retirement, Lourie continued his civic activities. In 1994, he was the founding president of the Jewish Historical Society of South Carolina and cleared the way for the development of the Jewish Heritage Collection at the College of Charleston, which already had a vibrant Jewish Studies program.

"The thing about him, he was a politician, a good politician," said Dale Rosengarten, curator of the collection. "But he was what we call in Yiddish a 'mensch.' He had character, unimpeachable integrity and a heart as big as a house."

He also had a running joke of 40 years that he shared with his old Turk buddy Sanders.

That joke won't be told again, Sanders said, but he did reveal this: Lourie "was the straight man, and I'll miss him for the rest of my life."

A service will be held at 3 p.m. today in Beth Shalom Synagogue, with burial in Hebrew Benevolent Society Cemetery.

KENT STATE UNIVERSITY'S WASHINGTON PROGRAM IN NATIONAL ISSUES: CELEBRATING 30 YEARS IN WASHINGTON, DC

HON. TIMOTHY J. RYAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. RYAN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Kent State University's Washington Program in National Issues, known as WPNI. On May 1, 2003, WPNI will celebrate its 30th Anniversary. This anniversary not only marks WPNI's 30th year in Washington, D.C., but also symbolizes the impressive achievements of those faculty, staff, alumni and students who are and who have been dedicated

to the success of WPNI. Dr. Carol Cartwright, President of Kent State University, has been a very strong supporter of the program and has contributed significantly to its continued success.

WPNI has three primary objectives: (1) to facilitate learning about the U.S. political system and its policy issues; (2) to develop an understanding of the interrelationship of public issues and structures of government; and (3) to encourage individual initiative and provide for experiences in internship and research. Dr. Carol Cartwright and Dr. Richard Robyn, Director of WPNI, have worked extremely hard to ensure that these objectives are met.

WPNI is a full 15-week academic program offered each Spring semester by Kent State University. Since its creation in 1973, WPNI has sent more than 600 selected juniors and seniors from various academic disciplines to Washington, D.C. to live, work and study. Throughout the course of the program, the students are required to participate in an academic curriculum and maintain an internship position in government, a company or an organization of their choice. The academic and professional benefits this program brings to its students are extraordinary. At the same time, government entities, companies and organizations benefit enormously. I know this first-hand as my Washington office had the good fortune to have Sarah Jones from Hubbard, Ohio, as a WPNI intern since February 2003. Sarah made an invaluable contribution to the day-to-day operation of my office and we will miss her greatly.

I commend Dr. Cartwright and those at Kent State involved in the foundation and the continuation of this meaningful program. I also congratulate all of the students who have taken part in this wonderful experience over the past 30 years. I am certain, that with continued support, the Washington Program in National Issues will celebrate many more anniversaries to come.

ASHLEY DURMAS

HON. SCOTT MCINNIS

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 29, 2003

Mr. MCINNIS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize an outstanding athlete and a pioneer from my district in the sport of woman's snowmobile racing. Ashley Durmas of Whitewater, Colorado is only 17 years old, though she is already an accomplished professional snowmobile racer.

Ashley started racing in junior competitions during the winter of 1999–2000 against a field of all boys. She crashed nearly every race, but Ashley is a winner, and she refused to give up. She continued riding and racing. She improved so much that last year she turned professional and finished second overall in the Colorado women's pro class. She still competes in the male division and usually finishes at or near the top. She recently entered the Colorado state championships in the sport class and beat 21 of the 23 men who competed against her.

Ashley is not only successful on the snow, but she excels in the classroom too. Even though her busy schedule often requires her to study while on the road to out-of-state